

Network Systems
Science & Advanced
Computing
Biocomplexity Institute
& Initiative
University of Virginia

Estimation of COVID-19 Impact in Virginia

July 29th, 2020

(data current to July 28th)

Biocomplexity Institute Technical report: TR 2020-092



BIOCOMPLEXITY INSTITUTE

biocomplexity.virginia.edu

Who We Are

- Biocomplexity Institute at the University of Virginia
 - Using big data and simulations to understand massively interactive systems and solve societal problems
- Over 20 years of crafting and analyzing infectious disease models
 - Pandemic response for Influenza, Ebola, Zika, and others



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Overview

- **Goal:** Understand impact of COVID-19 mitigations in Virginia
- **Approach:**
 - Calibrate explanatory mechanistic model to observed cases
 - Project infections through the end of summer
 - Consider a range of possible mitigation effects in "what-if" scenarios
- **Outcomes:**
 - Ill, Confirmed, Hospitalized, ICU, Ventilated, Death
 - Geographic spread over time, case counts, healthcare burdens

Key Takeaways

Projecting future cases precisely is impossible and unnecessary.

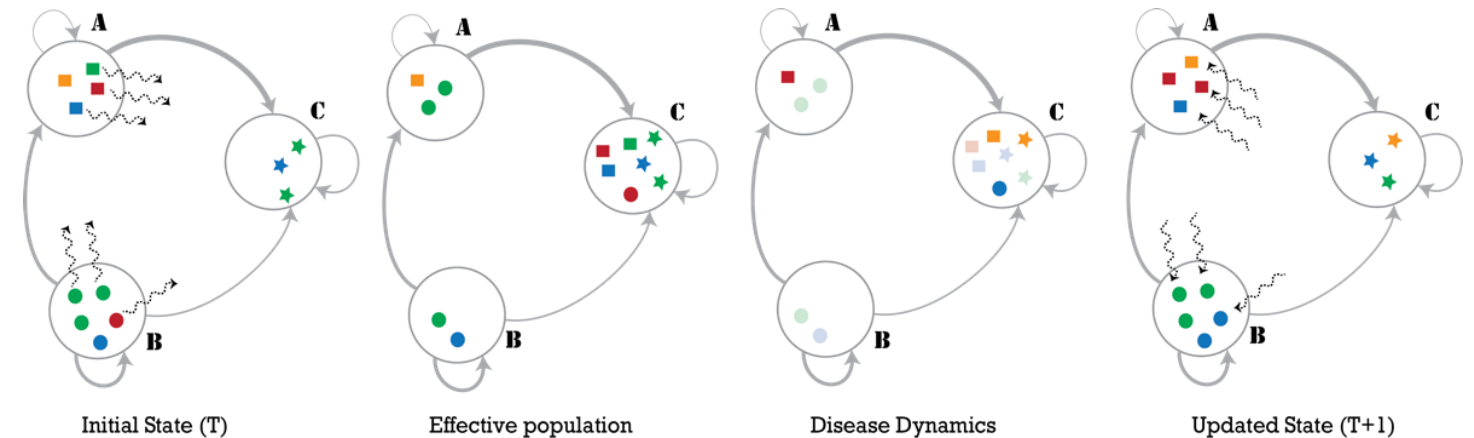
Even without perfect projections, we can confidently draw conclusions:

- **Some VDH health districts continue to experience high activity, though growth rates have slowed in most; fewer districts show signs of surge compared to last week.**
- Given the experience of other states in the nation, it is crucial to maintain control.
- Recent model updates:
 - Identifying and adjusting timing of Surge integrated with scenario selection for "Best Fit" projection
 - New "Adaptive Fitting" approach has preliminary results
 - Added and updated analyses to act as early indicators of surge and look for indicators of control
- Similar signs of slowed growth evident across nation, though incidence levels remain high, some states still exhibiting rapid growth.
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models will be updated regularly.

Model Configuration and Data Analysis

Simulation Engine – PatchSim

- Metapopulation model
 - Represents each population and its interactions as a single patch
 - 133 patches for Virginia counties and independent cities
- Extended SEIR disease representation
 - Includes asymptomatic infections and treatments
- Mitigations affect both disease dynamics and population interactions
- Runs fast on high-performance computers
 - Ideal for calibration and optimization



S → **E** → **I** → **R**
Susceptible → **Exposed** → **Infectious** → **Removed**



Venkatramanan, Srinivasan, et al. "Optimizing spatial allocation of seasonal influenza vaccine under temporal constraints." *PLoS Computational Biology* 15.9 (2019): e1007111.

Model Configuration

- **Transmission:** Parameters are calibrated to the observed case counts
 - **Reproductive number:** 2.1 - 2.3
 - **Infectious period** (time of infectiousness before full isolation): 3.3 to 5 days
- **Initial infections:** Start infections from confirmed cases by county
 - Timing and location based on onset of illness from VDH data
 - Assume 15% detection rate, so one confirmed case becomes ~7 initial infections
- **Mitigations:** Intensity of social distancing rebound and control sustaining mitigations into the future are unknowable, thus explored through 5 scenarios

Full Model Parameters

	Parameter	Values	Description
Transmission	Transmissibility (R_0) ¹	2.2 [2.1 – 2.3]	Reproductive number
	Incubation period ¹	5 days	Time from infection to infectious
	Infectious period ¹	3.3 - 5 days	Duration of infectiousness
	Infection detection rate ³	15%	1 confirmed case becomes ~7 initial infections
	Percent asymptomatic ¹	50%	Infected individuals that don't exhibit symptoms
Resources	Onset to hospitalization ¹	5 days	Time from symptoms to hospitalization
	Hospitalization to ventilation ¹	3 days	Time from hospitalization to ventilation
	Duration hospitalized	8 days	Time spent in the hospital ⁴
	Duration ventilated ²	14 days	Time spent on a ventilator
	Percent hospitalized ¹	5.5% (~20% of confirmed)	Symptomatic individuals becoming hospitalized
	Percent in ICU ¹	20%	Hospitalized patients that require ICU
	Percent ventilated ¹	70%	ICU patients requiring ventilation
	Percent Fatality	1.35%	Symptomatic individuals who die

¹ CDC COVID-19 Modeling Team. "Best Guess" scenario. Planning Parameters for COVID-19 Outbreak Scenarios. Version: 2020-03-31.

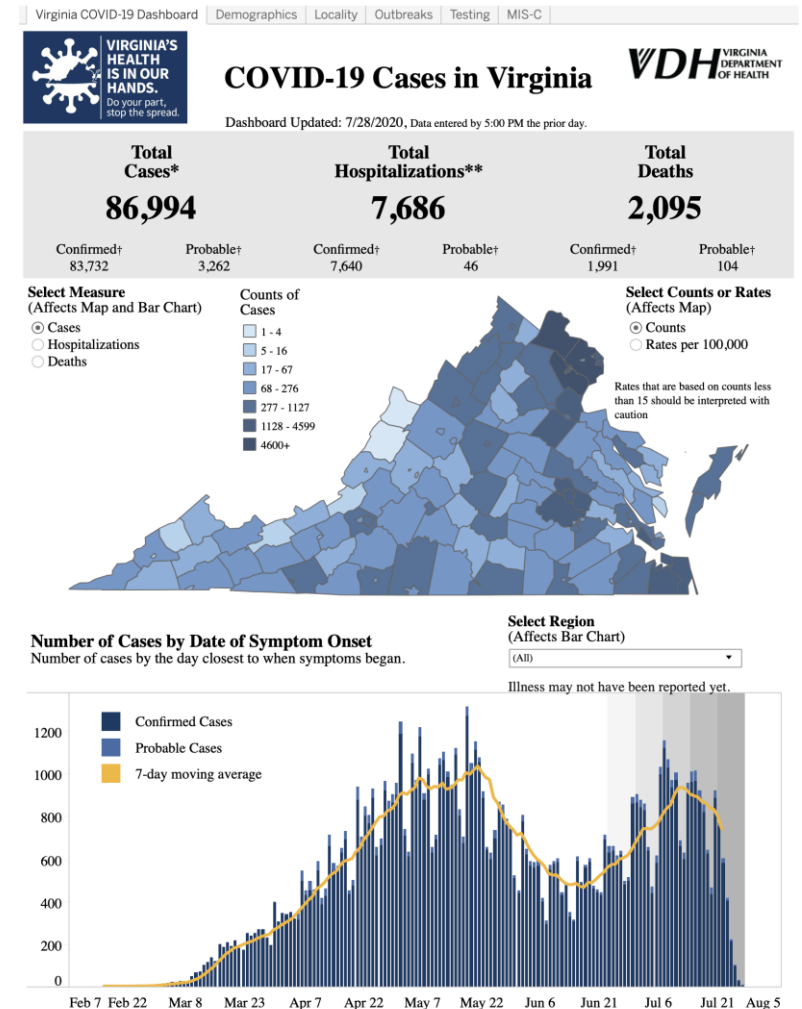
² Up-to-date. COVID-19 Critical Care Issues. https://www.uptodate.com/contents/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-critical-care-issues?source=related_link (Accessed 13APRIL2020)

³ Li et al., *Science* 16 Mar 2020:eabb3221 <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/early/2020/03/24/science.abb3221> (Accessed 13APRIL2020)

⁴ Personal communications, UVA Health and Sentara (~500 VA based COVID patients)

Calibration Approach

- **Data:**
 - County level case counts by date of onset (from VDH)
 - Confirmed cases for model fitting
- **Model:** PatchSim initialized with disease parameter ranges from literature
- **Calibration:** fit model to observed data
 - Search transmissibility and duration of infectiousness
 - Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) particle filtering finds best fits while capturing uncertainty in parameter estimates
- **Spatial Adjustments:** VDH districts grouped to 3 tiers of growth during the Pause, with similarly scaled reductions then applied to the groups of districts
- **Project:** future cases and outcomes using the trained particles

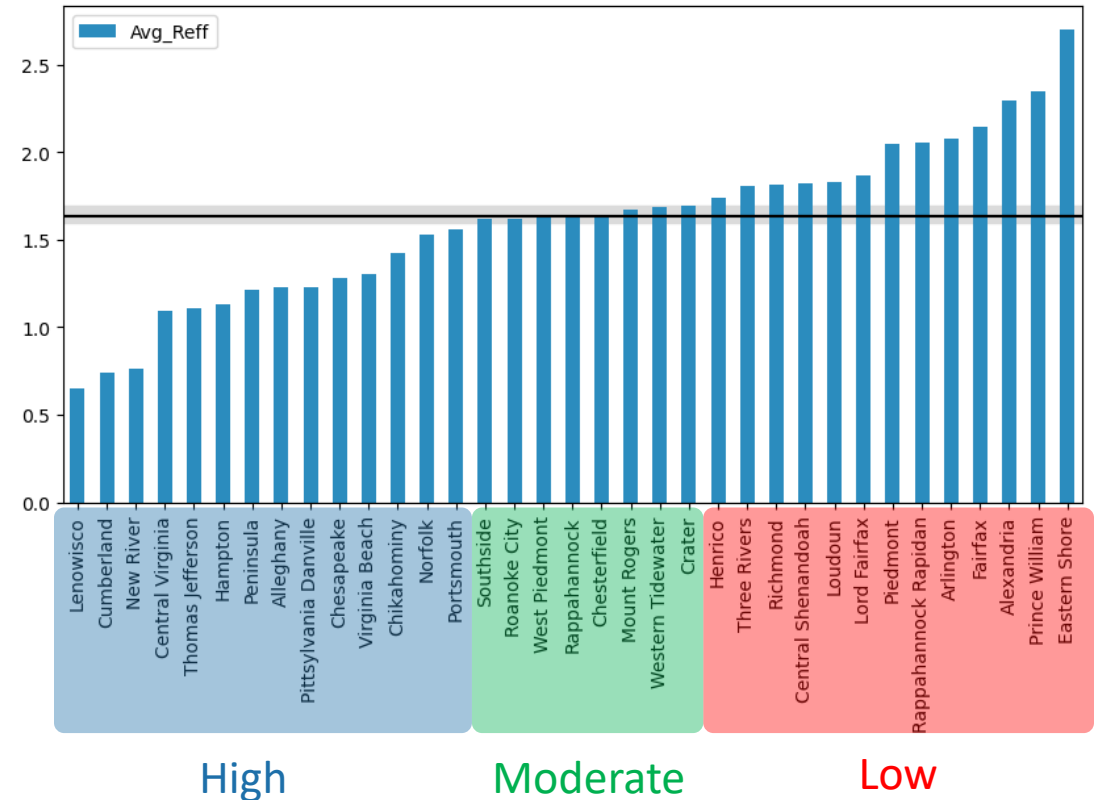


Accessed 10pm July 28, 2020
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

Spatial Adjustments at District Level

District Specific adjustments based on Growth during Pause

- Group districts by their mean growth from mid-April to mid-May (using model based R_{eff})
- Assign reductions during Pause, and beyond, to members of these groups
- **Low** reduction = 40%
- **Moderate** reduction = 45% (previous level)
- **High** reduction = 55%



Scenarios: Control

Pause from Social Distancing: Began on March 15th

- Lifted on May 15th (61 days), with two-week delay (75 days) for select counties*
- **Intensity:** Social distancing pauses and significantly reduces case growth, this level varies by VDH Health District and is fit through an analysis of growth rate during the Pause

Intensity of Rebound: Some districts rebounded following initial relaxation of Pause

- **Steady:** Intensity of effective mixing remains steady from Pause as infection control practices moderate increased interactions
- **Light:** Effective mixing returns to 1/6th of pre-pandemic levels
- **Full Rebound:** Interactions return completely (100%) to pre-pandemic levels, as a reference

Tracing and Isolation: Increased Testing Capacity coupled with infection control measures can limit the period of infectiousness without isolation

- **Better Detection:** Observed relative reductions in days from onset to diagnosis applied to infectious period from (30% → 45% → 30%) and remain stable into future for projections

* Select counties as mentioned by recent releases from Governor Northam's office
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/may/headline-856741-en.html>
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/may/headline-856796-en.html>

Mitigation Scenarios: Surge

Resurgence: Much of the nation experiencing a resurgence

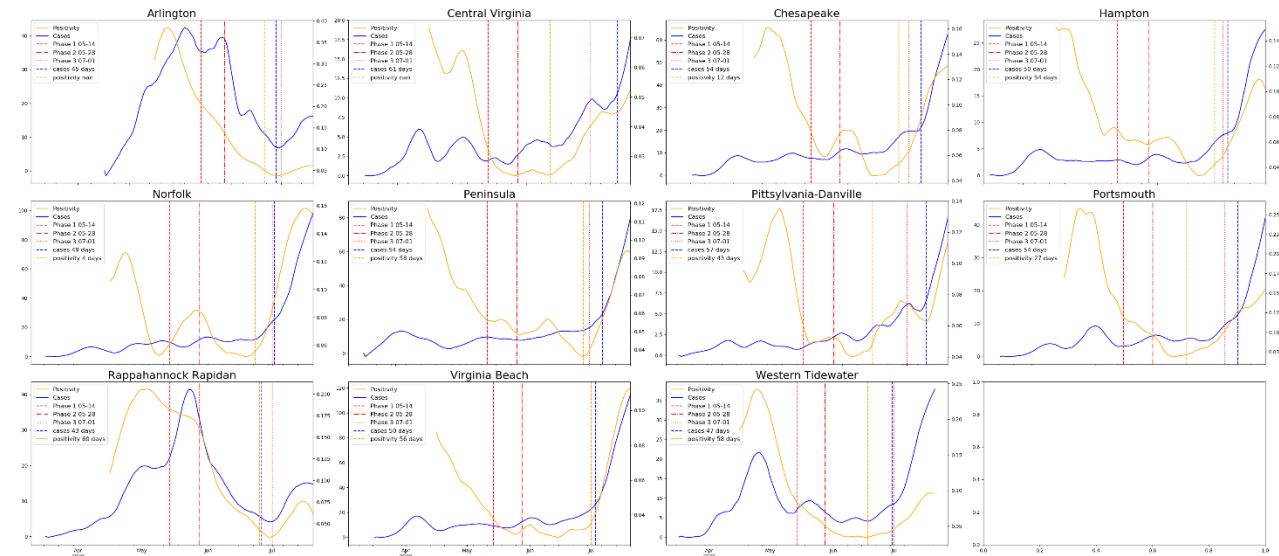
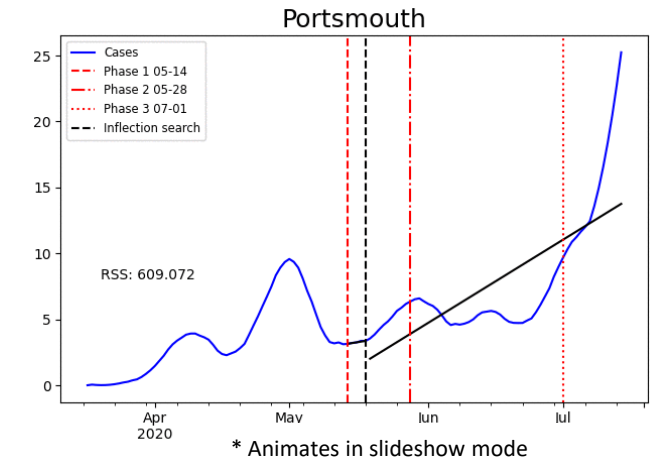
- Many districts in the Commonwealth also showing a resurgence
- 23 states surging: 28-day delay (avg) from relaxation to surge

Intensity of Surge: Difficult to predict with limited data

- **Strong Rebound:** Effective mixing returns 1/3 back to pre-pandemic levels

Timing of Surge: Past and Present

- Determine surging districts and timing through “hockey stick” fit
- Allow “Best Fit” method to select from “Surge” scenarios
- Default to July 29th, (28 days from July 1st) for districts not identified



Eleven districts: Compared to 12 last week

In: Central Virginia added

Out: Thomas Jefferson and Three Rivers

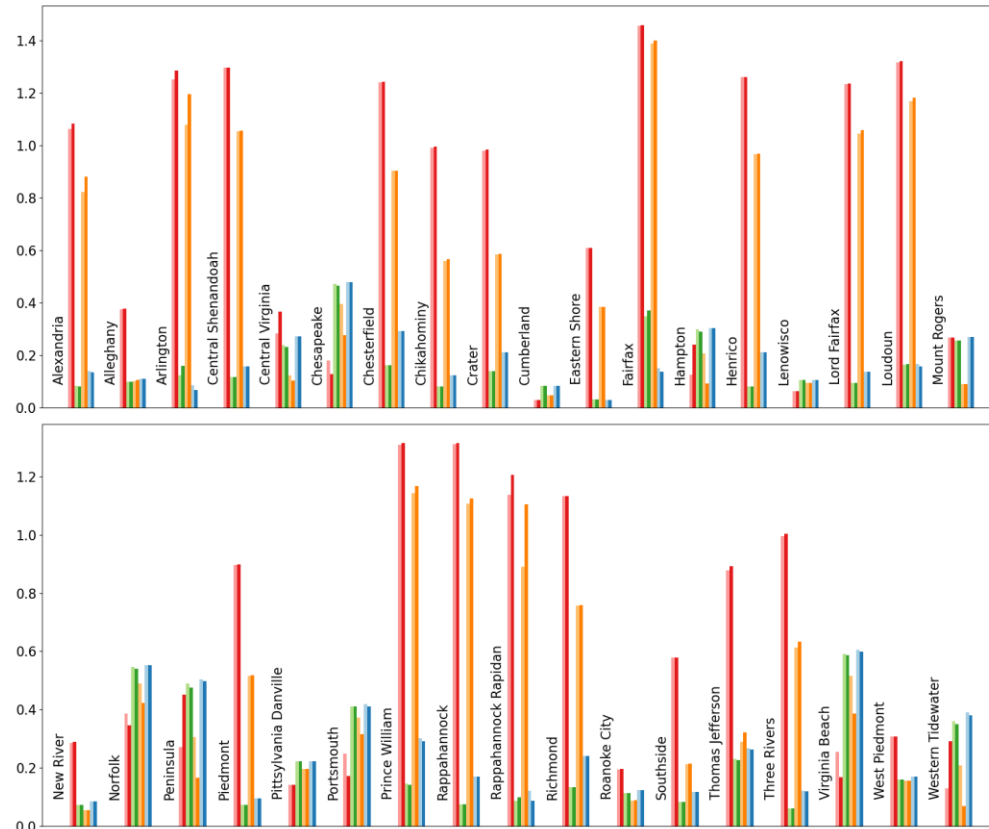
Eight Scenarios for Projection

Abbr	Rebound Intensity	Better Detection	Surge	Name
LR	Light	No	No	LightRebound
LR-S	Light	No	Yes	LightRebound-Surge
LR-BD	Light	Yes	No	LightRebound-BetterDetection
LR-BD-S	Light	Yes	Yes	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge
S	Steady	No	No	Steady
S-S	Steady	No	Yes	Steady-Surge
S-BD	Steady	Yes	No	Steady-BetterDetection
S-BD-S	Steady	Yes	Yes	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge

Selection of Best Fitting Projection

Recent incidence by district (last week) is measured against all eight projections, one with least error is selected as the “Best Fit” projection

■ LightRebound ■ LightRebound-BetterDetection ■ Steady ■ Steady-BetterDetection ■ Steady-BetterDetection-Surge
■ LightRebound-Surge ■ LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge ■ Steady-Surge



Abbr	Name	# of Districts (last wk)
LR	LightRebound	3 (3)
LR-S	LightRebound-Surge	4 (4)
LR-BD	LightRebound-BetterDetection	15 (10)
LR-BD-S	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge	1 (6)
S	Steady	4 (2)
S-S	Steady-Surge	4 (7)
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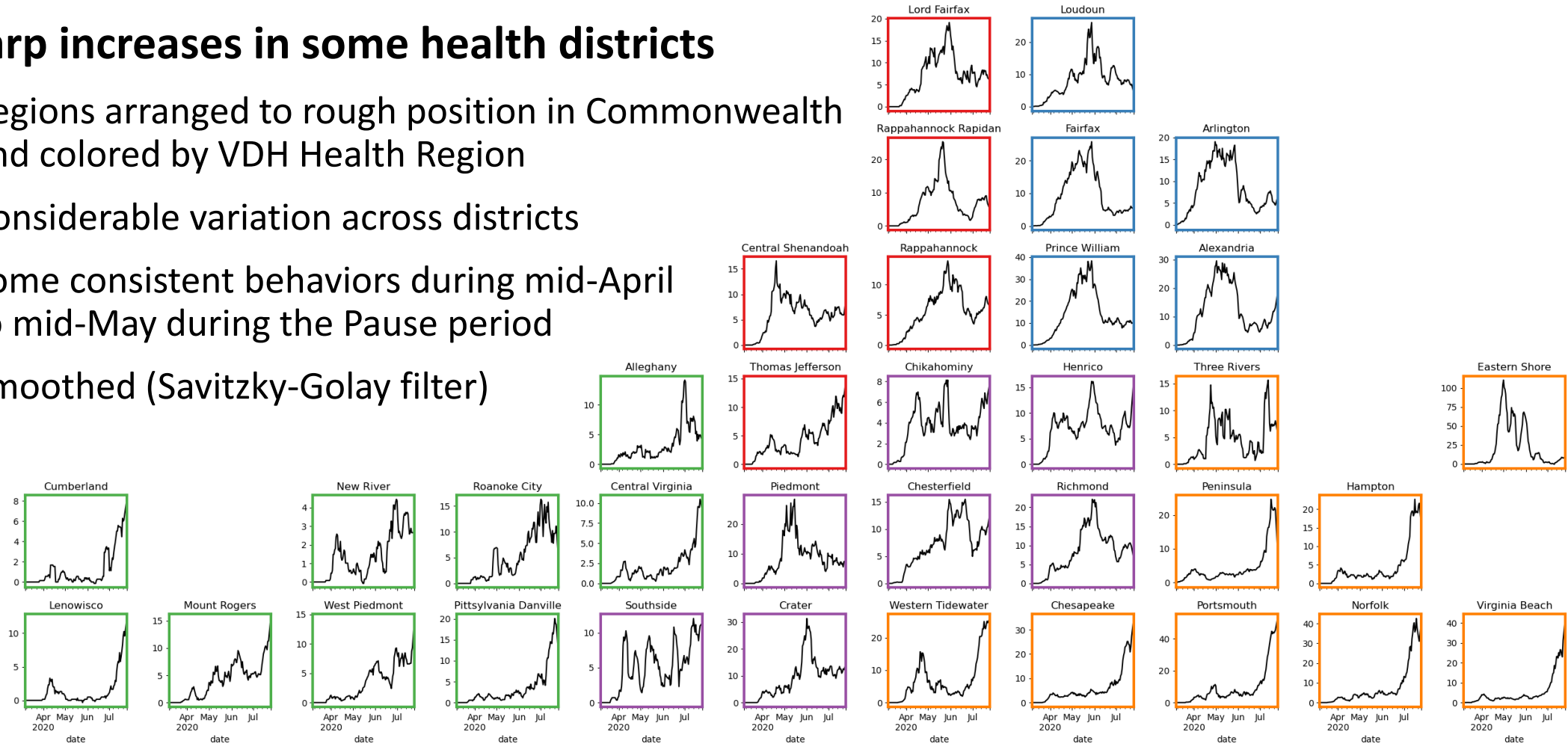
- 12 districts have Surge projections as BestFit compared to 19 last week
- Mixed movement some towards “higher incidence” projections and some towards “lower incidence”

Data Analysis Supporting Model

Case Rate (per 100k) by VDH District

Sharp increases in some health districts

- Regions arranged to rough position in Commonwealth and colored by VDH Health Region
- Considerable variation across districts
- Some consistent behaviors during mid-April to mid-May during the Pause period
- Smoothed (Savitzky-Golay filter)



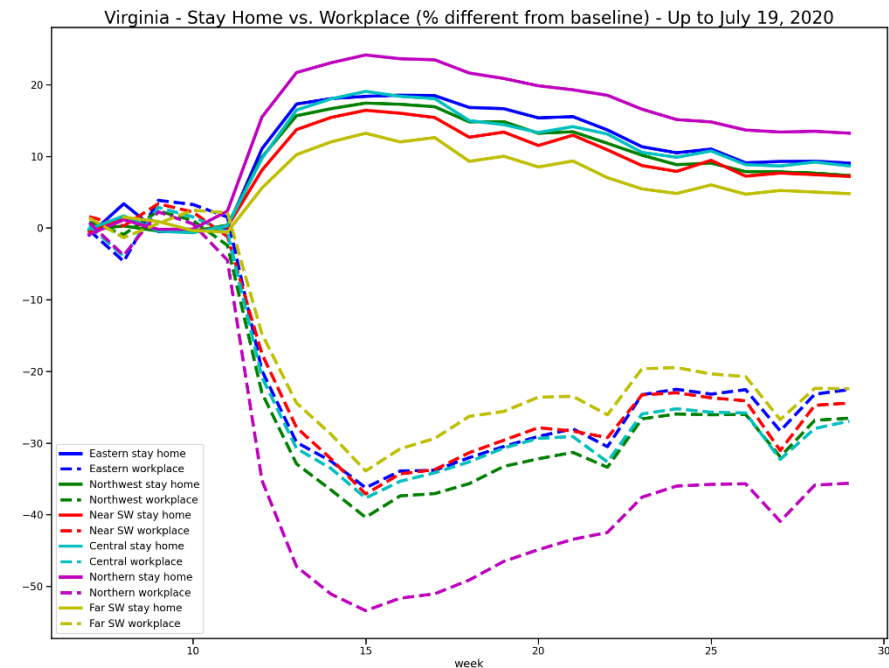
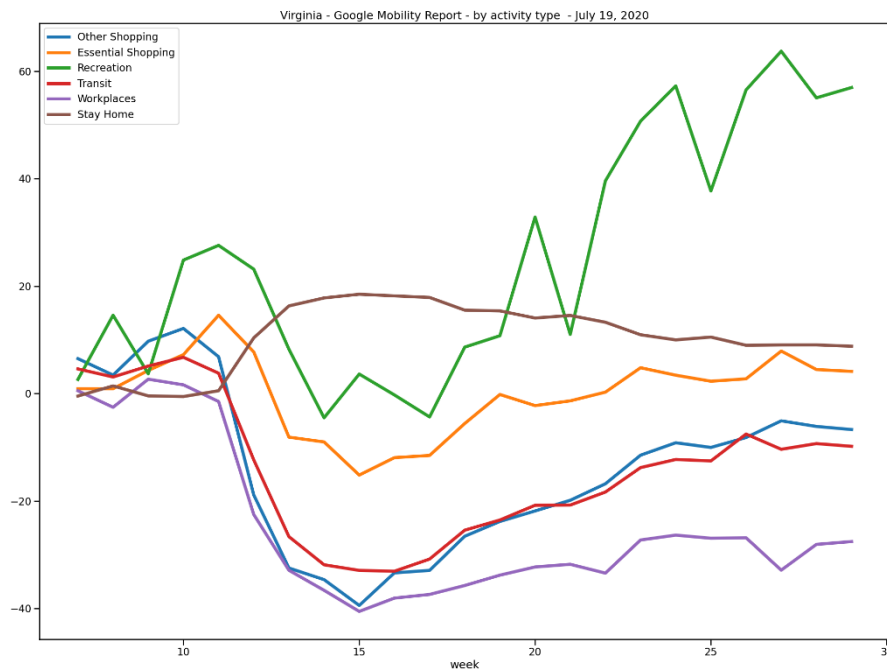
Estimating Effects of Social Distancing

Mobility data shows pause mid-March, slow rebound starting in May

Google Mobility data shows continued slow rebound
(as of July 19th)

<https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

- Continued reduction of those staying at home, very slow and stable reductions
- Other activities show vaster increases with grocery / retail nearly back to baseline
- Parks and recreation show significant increase



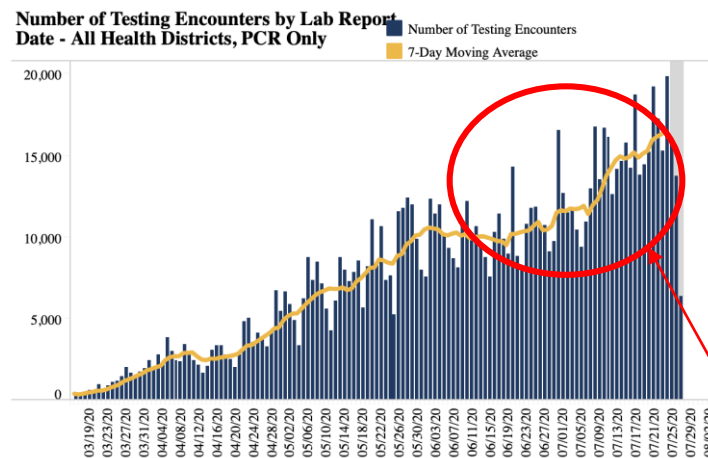
Changes in Case Detection

VDH data show changes in time from Symptom Onset to Diagnosis

Days to Diagnosis dropped but rebounding

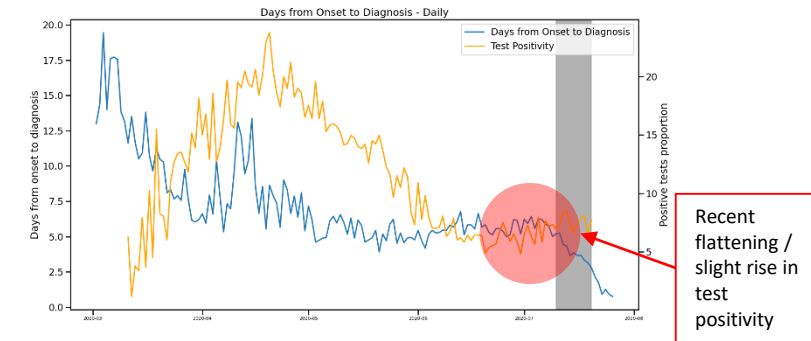
- Mid March to Late April = 8.0 days
- Late April to Mid May = 5.9 days (26% lower)
- Mid May to early June = 5.0 days (38% lower)
- Early June to mid July = 5.7 days (29% lower)

Testing Encounters and test positivity have steadied and increased

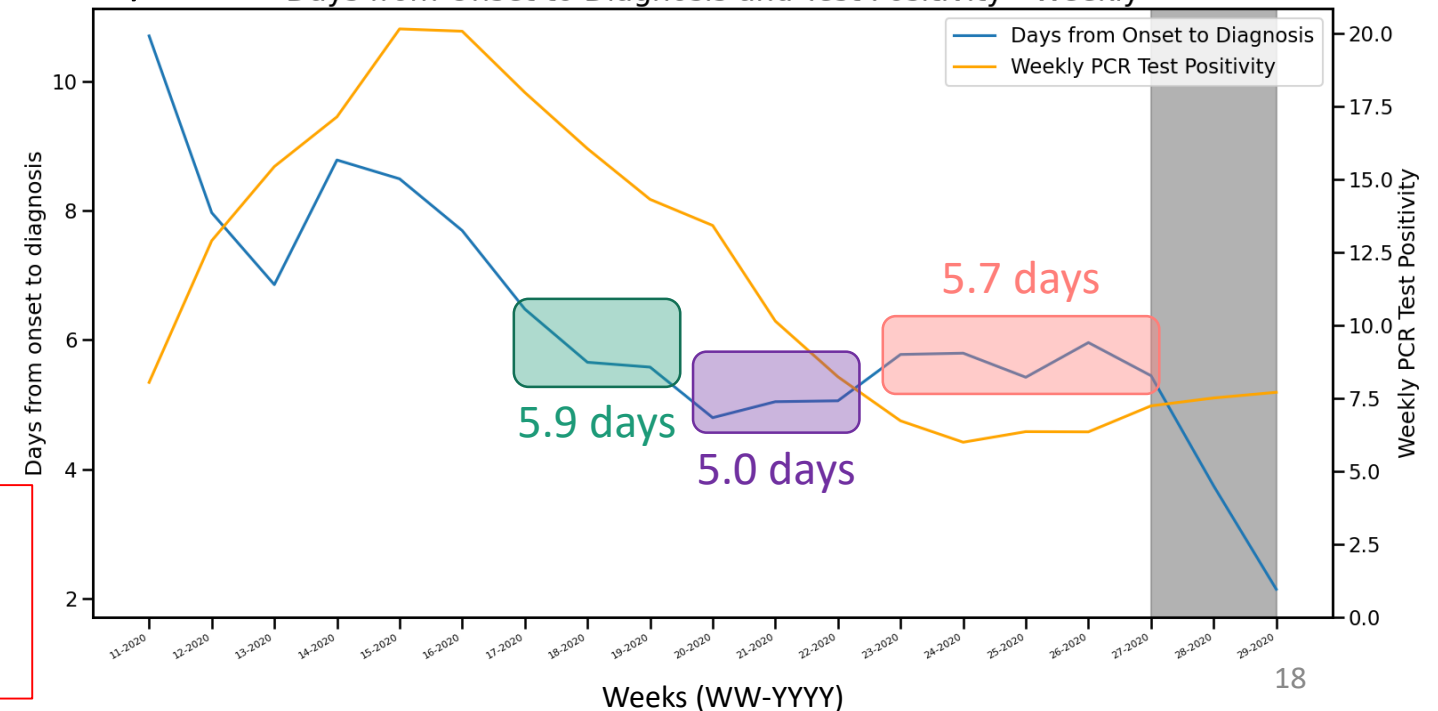


A period of slowed growth and then rapid increase in total tests

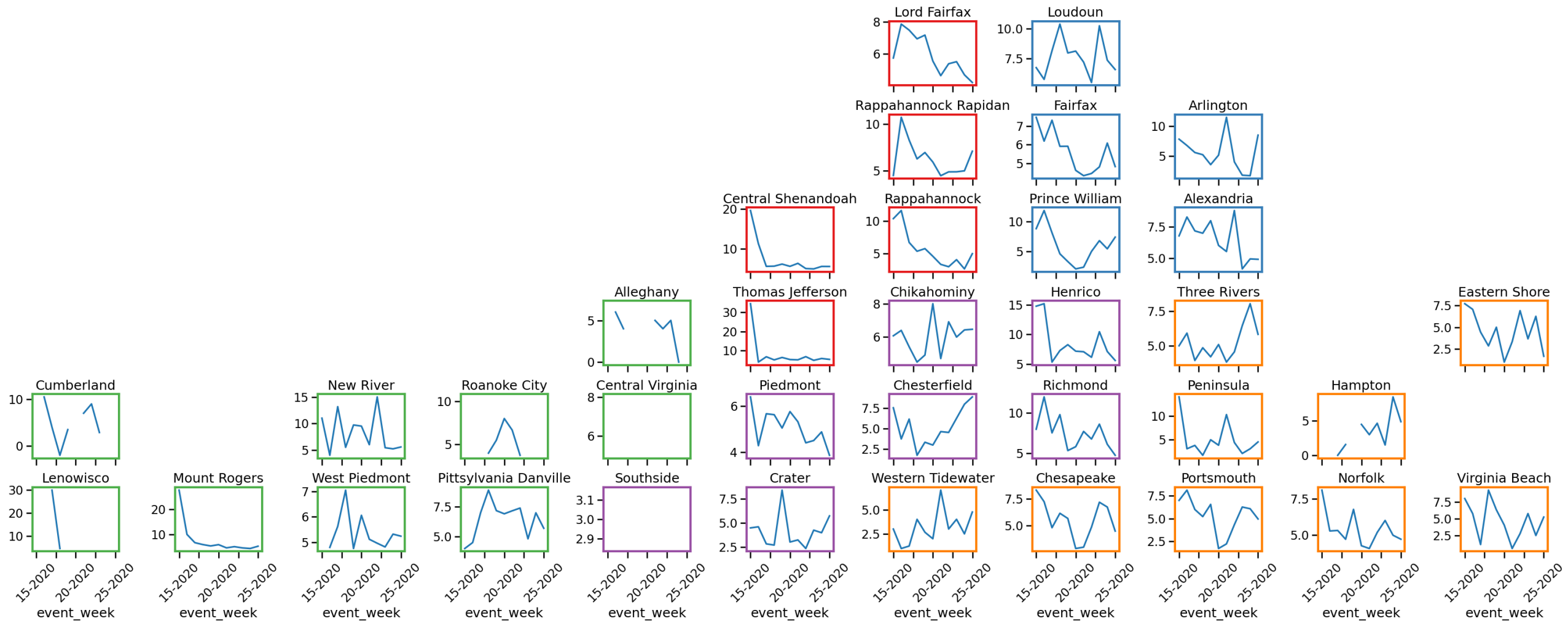
Test positivity vs. Onset to Diagnosis



Days from Onset to Diagnosis and Test Positivity - Weekly

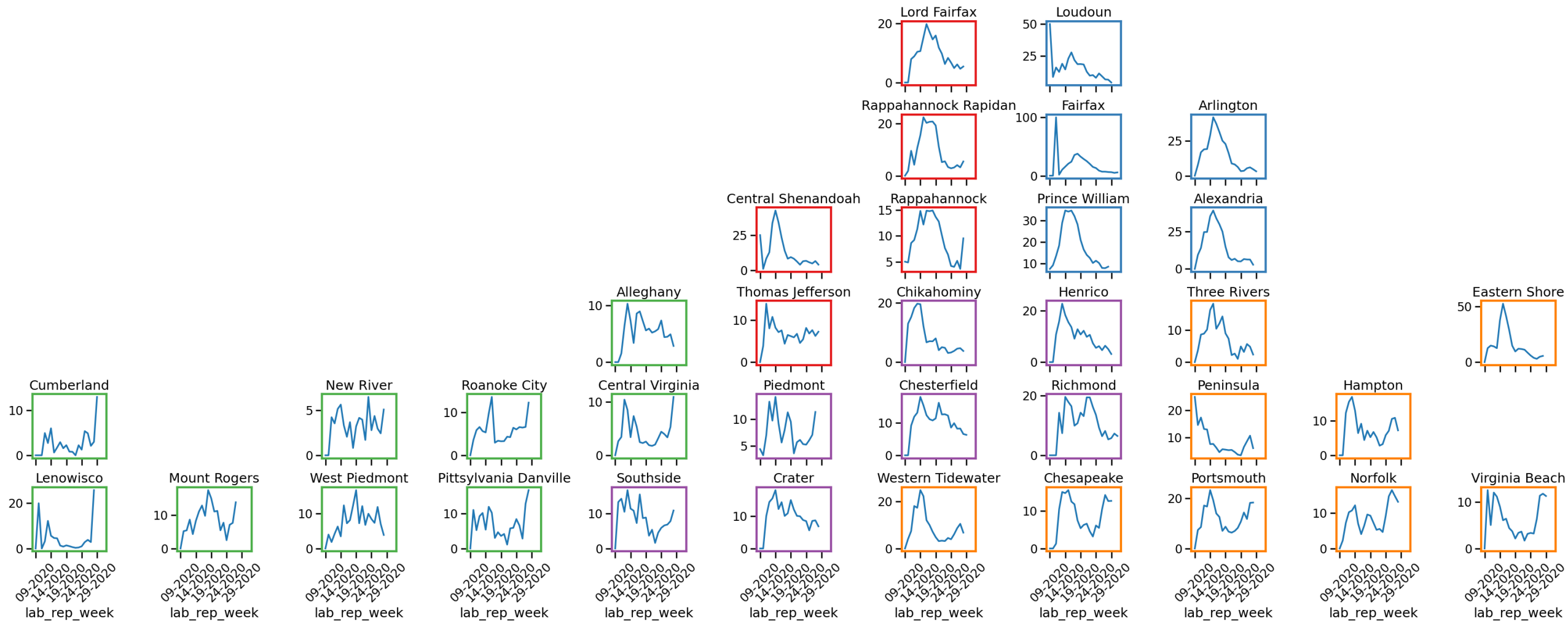


Changes in Case Detection* – by district



*up to the early July when data is stable

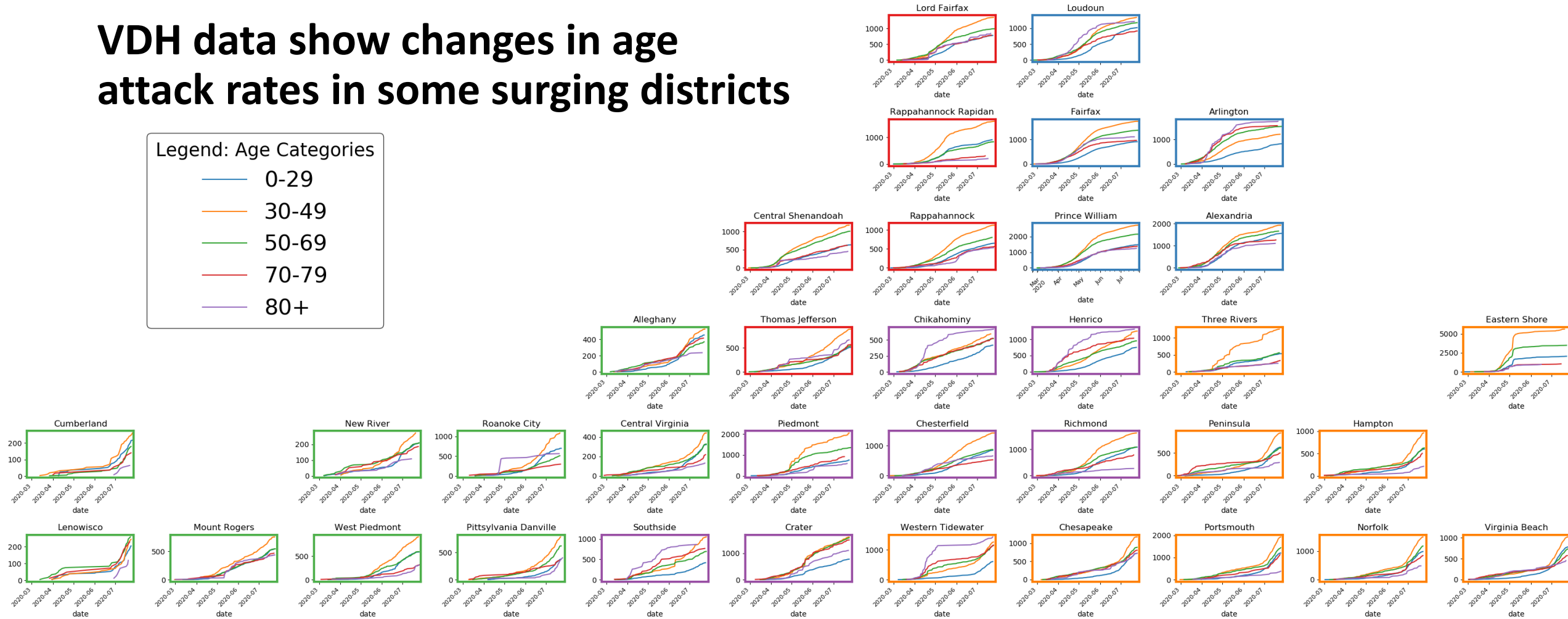
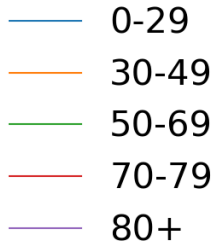
Changes in Test Positivity – by district



Case Attack rate (per 100k) by Age-group and District

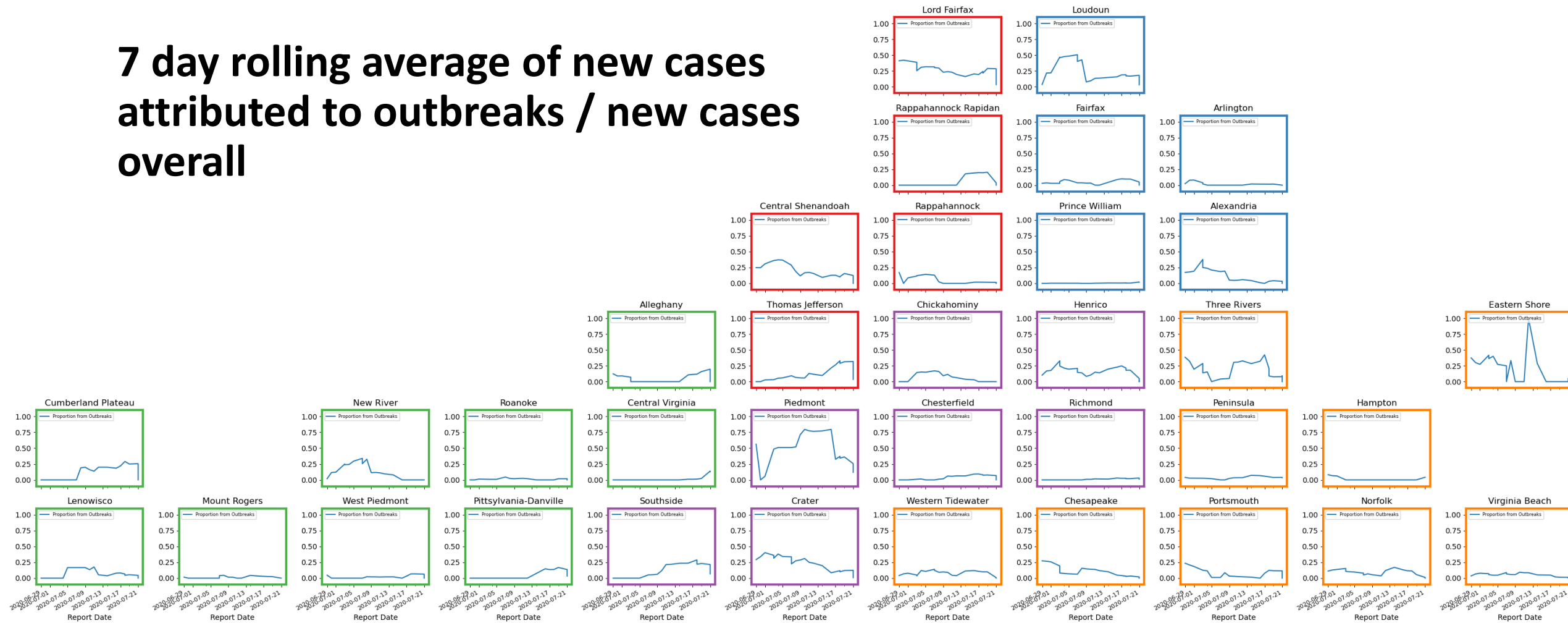
VDH data show changes in age attack rates in some surging districts

Legend: Age Categories



Proportion of Cases related to Outbreaks – by district

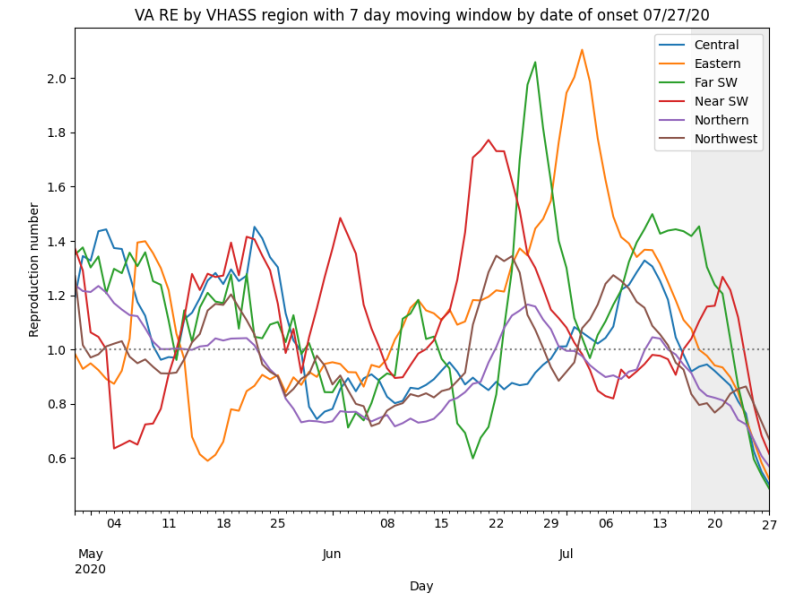
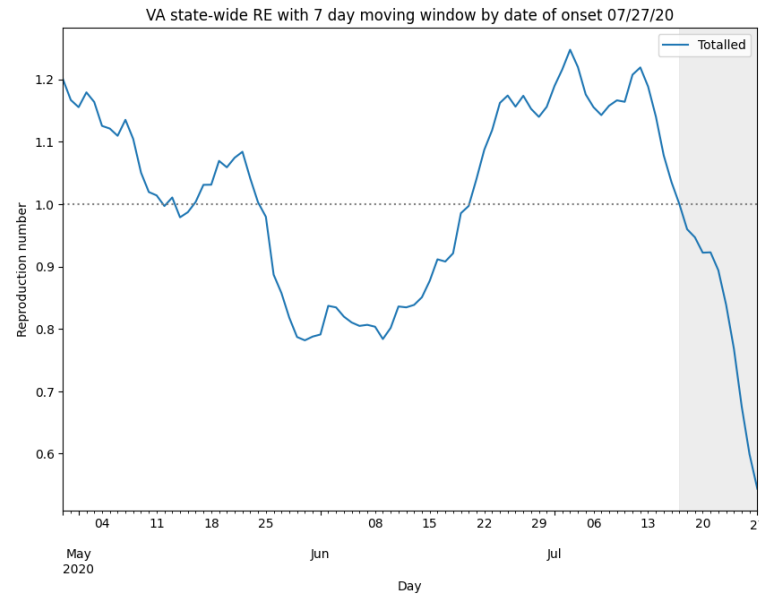
**7 day rolling average of new cases
attributed to outbreaks / new cases
overall**



Estimating Daily Reproductive Number

July 18th Estimates

Region	Current R_e	Diff Last Week
State-wide	0.960	-0.133
Central	0.937	-0.216
Eastern	0.999	-0.274
Far SW	1.454	0.129
Near SW	1.104	0.230
Northern	0.855	0.003
Northwest	0.795	-0.279



Methodology

- Wallinga-Teunis method as implemented in EpiEstim¹ R package
- Based on Date of Onset of Symptoms
- Uses serial interval to estimate R_e over time: 6 days (2 day std dev)

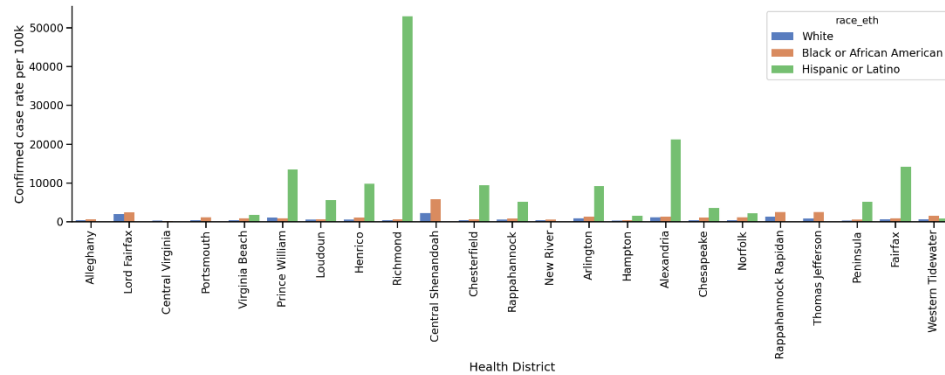
Recent Estimates subject to revision as more data comes in

- Date of onset unstable in last 7-14 days

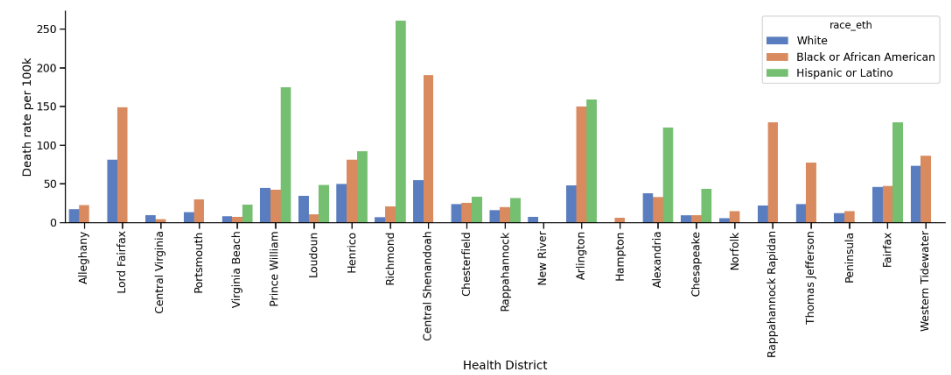
1. Anne Cori, Neil M. Ferguson, Christophe Fraser, Simon Cauchemez. A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics. American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 178, Issue 9, 1 November 2013, Pages 1505–1512, <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt133>

Impact of Race / Ethnicity & Outbreaks

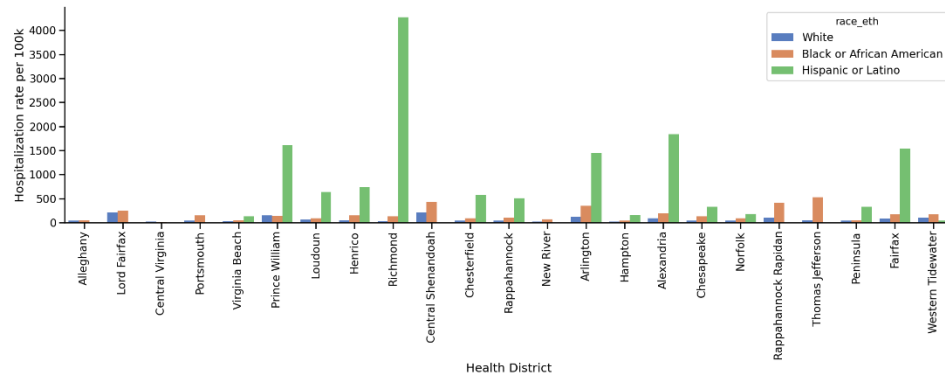
Confirmed Case Rate



Death Rate



Hospitalization Rate



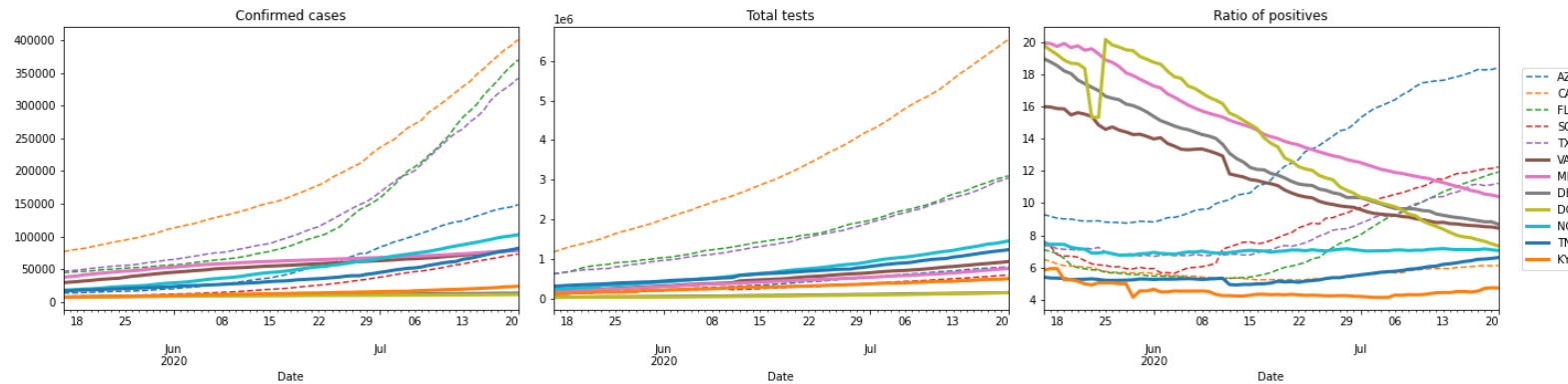
Different Races and Ethnicities disproportionately affected

- Hispanic population bears large burden of disease compared to population size

Outbreak Events are hard to predict and affect model fits

- Eastern Shore has 60% of cases from 10 outbreaks
- Fairfax most outbreaks but relatively low proportion

Other State Comparisons



Several Surging states show signs of slowing

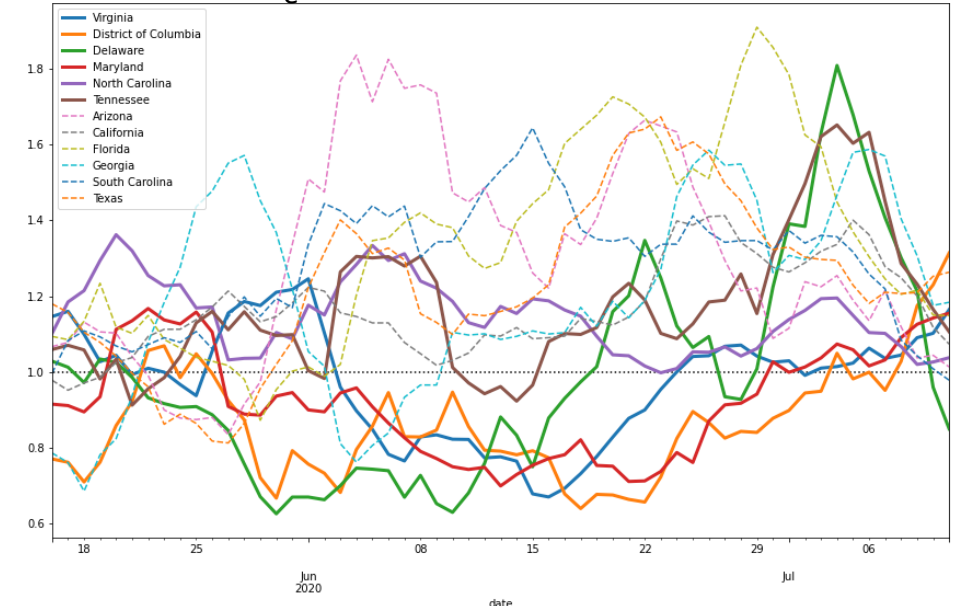
- Many of the states that have been surging for weeks have experienced a plateau or reduction in daily incidence in the past week

R_e Estimates for VA and neighbors mainly stable or down

- Virginia and others still above 1
- Only DC shows sharp rise, others stable or declining

Signs of resurgence: Plateauing or increase in test positivity and R above 1 for several weeks

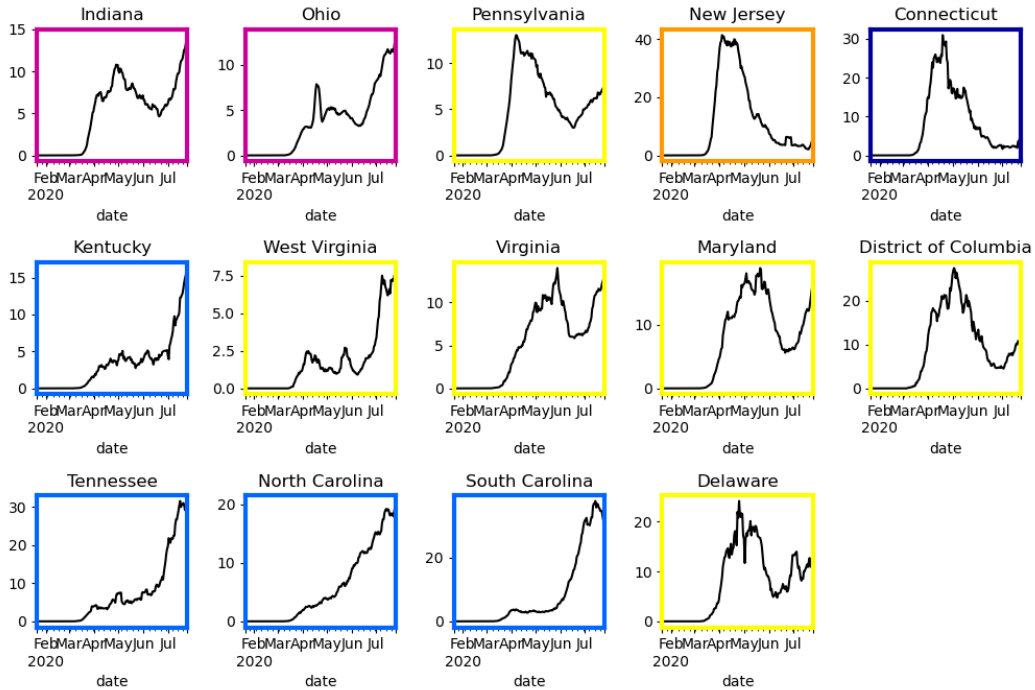
Estimated R_e^* for surging States and Neighbors



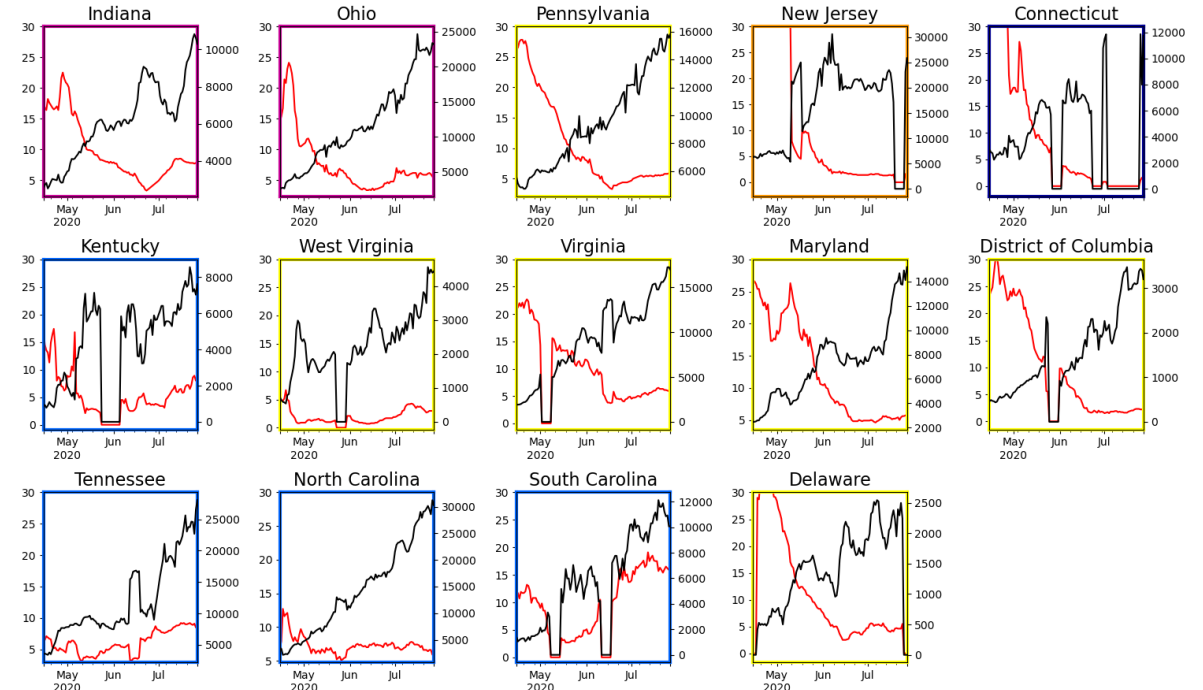
* Based on confirmed cases per day

Other State Comparisons

Case Rate per 100K population



Tests per Day and Test Positivity

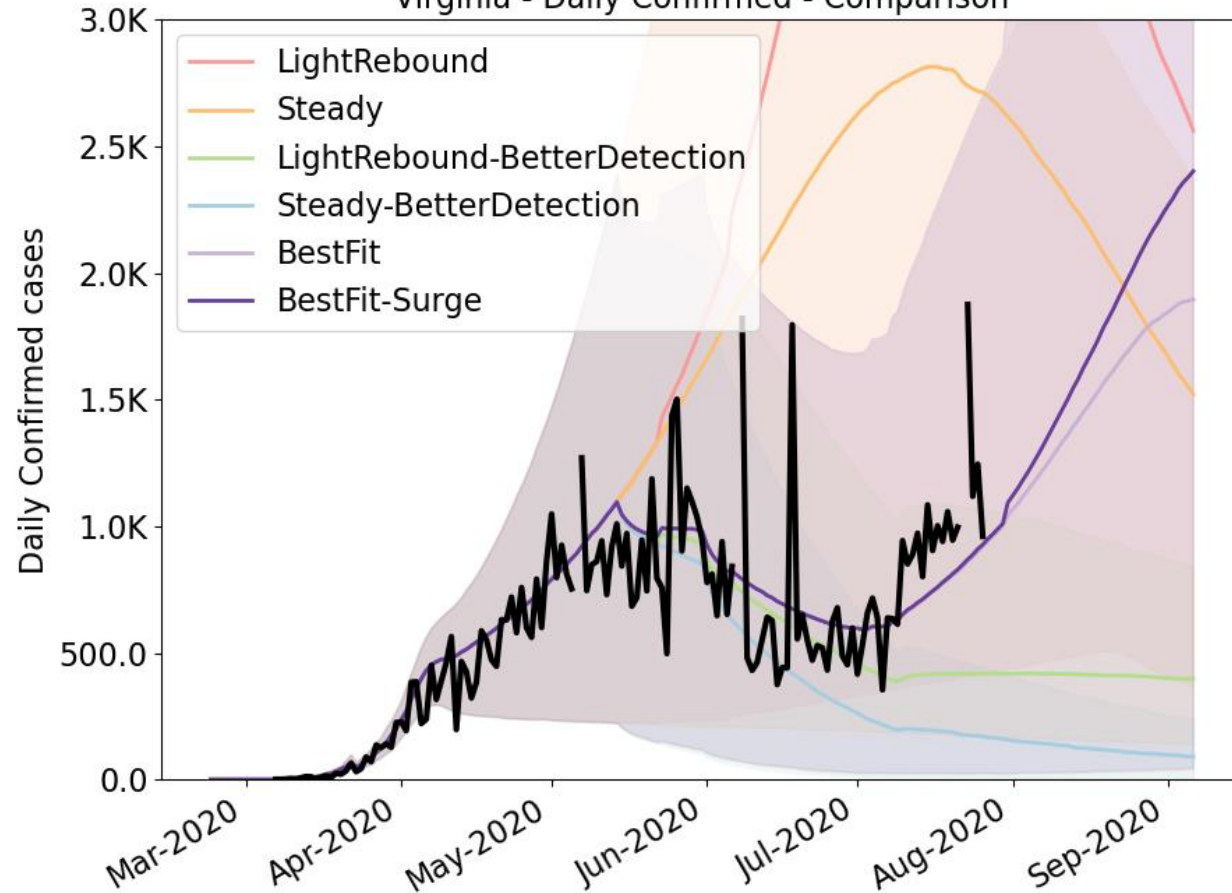


Model Results

Outcome Projections

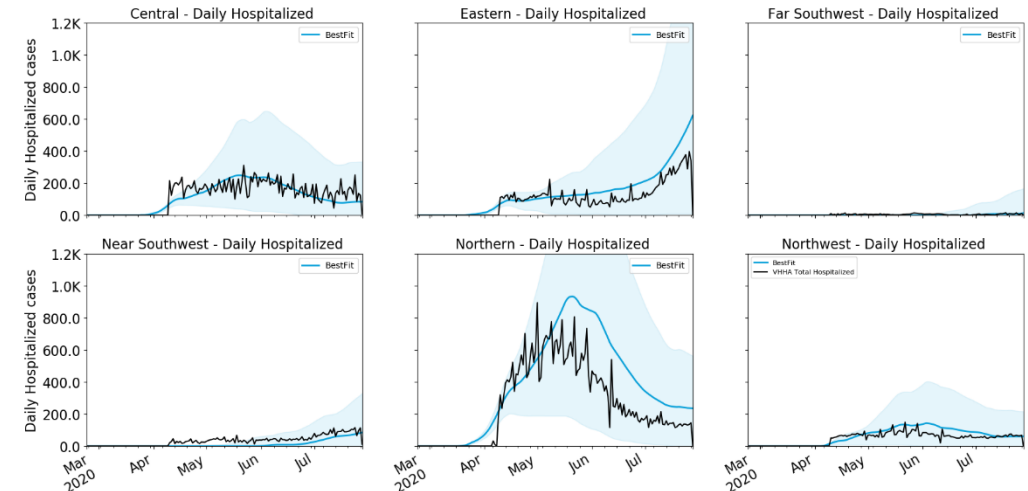
Confirmed cases

Virginia - Daily Confirmed - Comparison

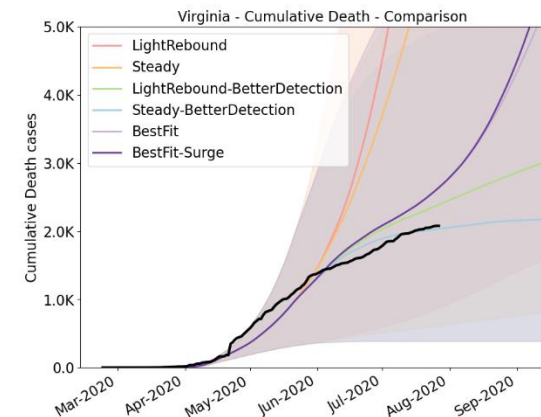


Hospital occupancy

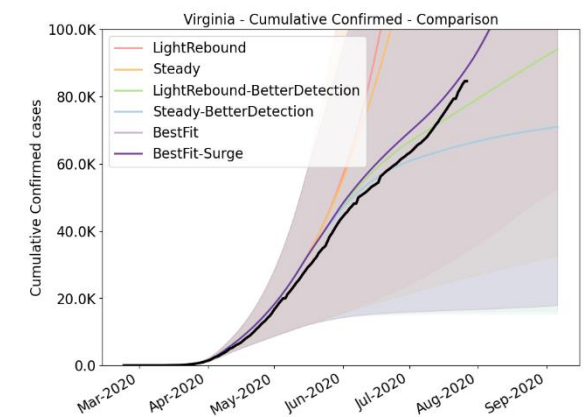
Virginia: Daily Total Confirmed Hospitalized Versus Sim - 8 Day Rolling



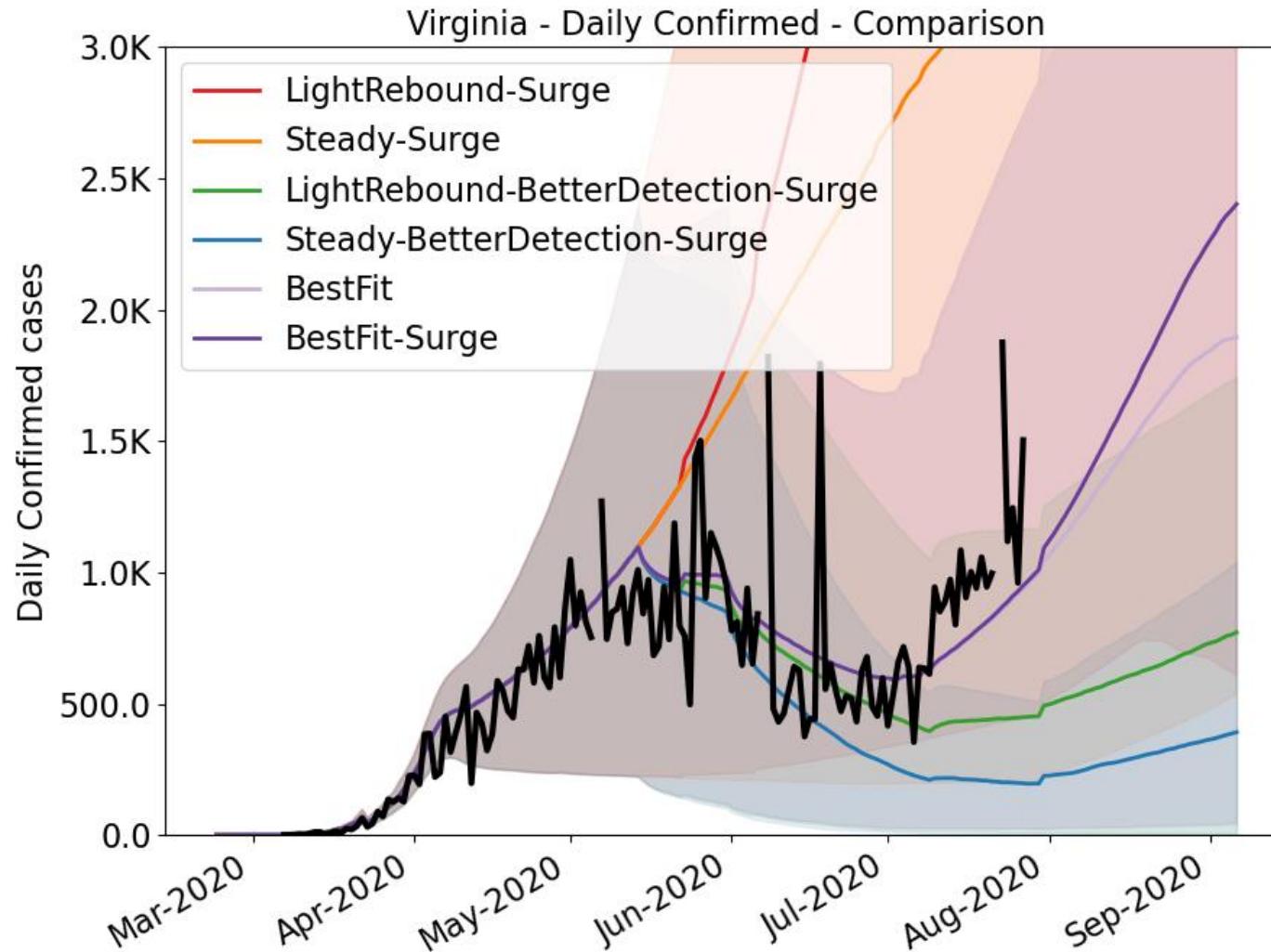
Deaths



Cumulative Confirmed cases



Outcome Projections – with Surge



Weekly New Confirmed Cases*

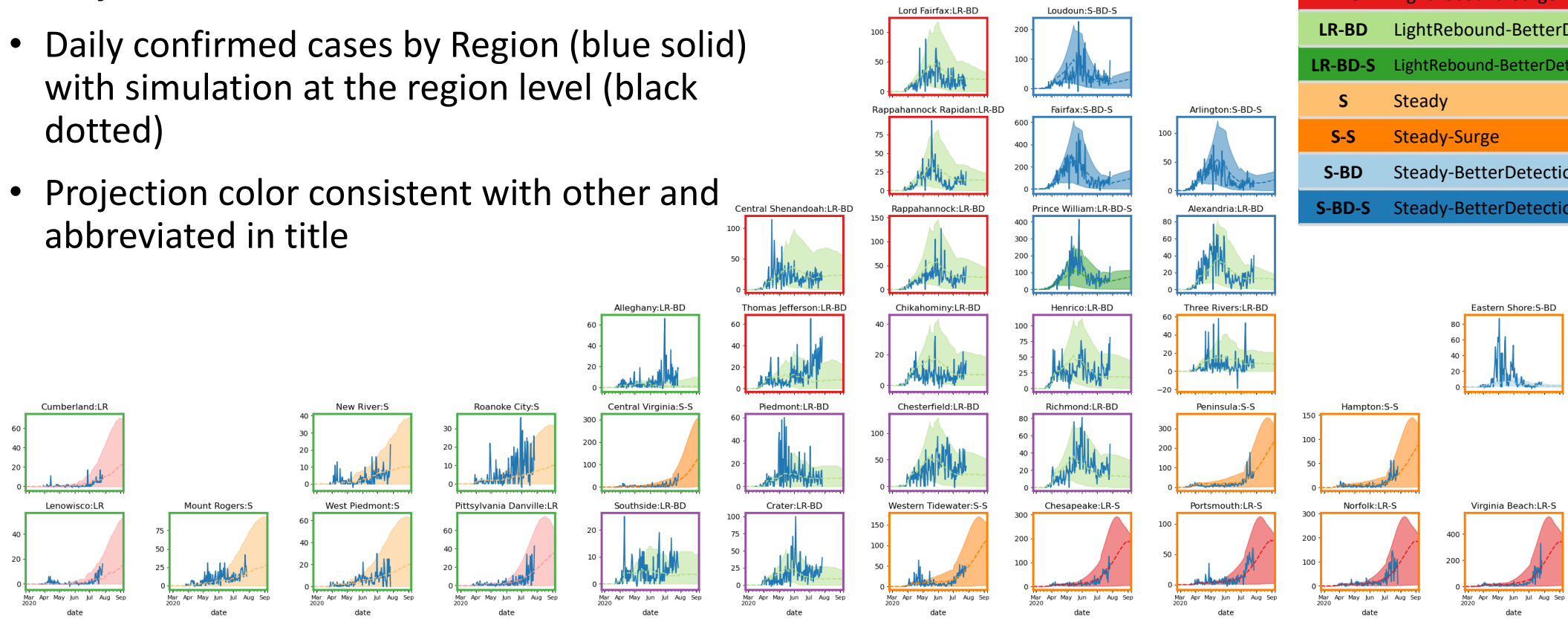
Week Ending	Best Fit	Best Fit w/ Surge
7/19/20	4,965	4,996
7/26/20	5,770	5,819
8/2/20	6,742	6,847
8/9/20	8,001	8,510
8/16/20	9,341	10,266
8/23/20	10,720	12,168
8/30/20	12,017	14,124
9/6/20	12,926	15,858

*Numbers are medians of projections

District Level Projections - Daily

Best fitting projections by District

- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily confirmed cases by Region (blue solid) with simulation at the region level (black dotted)
- Projection color consistent with other and abbreviated in title

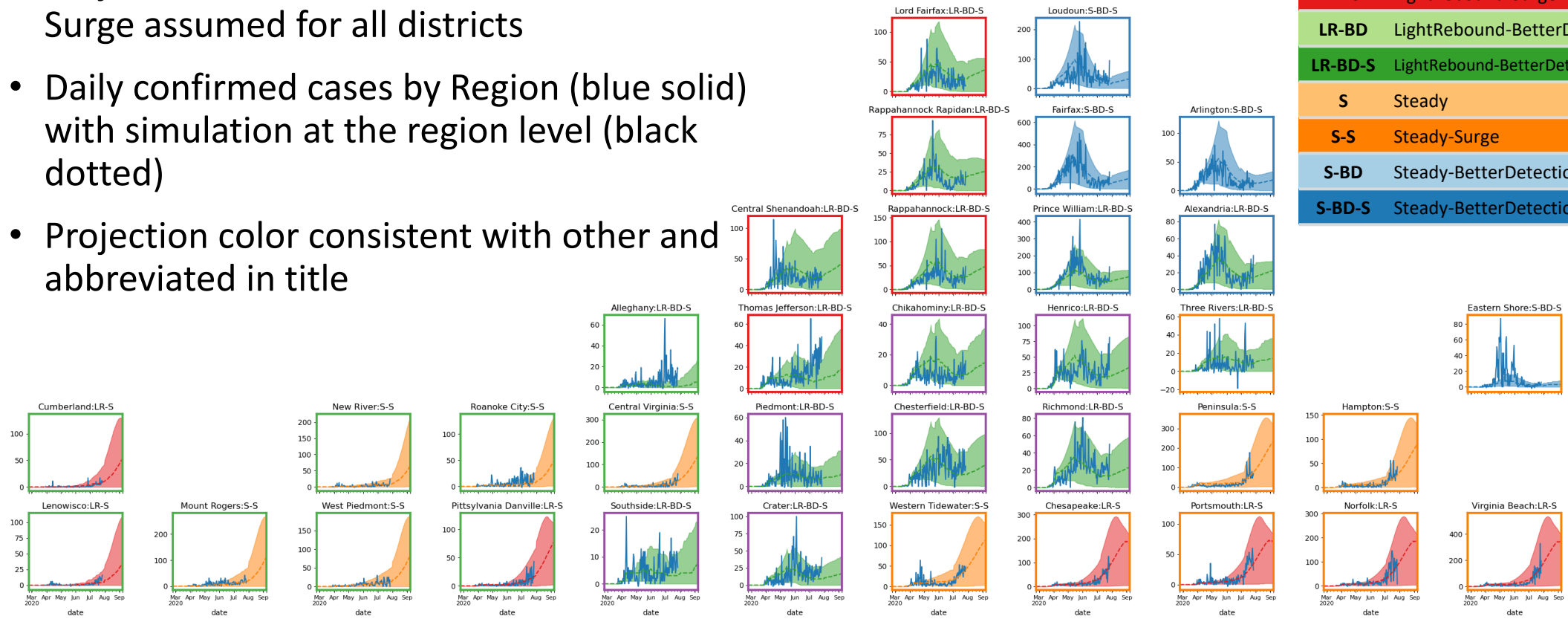


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LR-BD-S	LightRebound-BetterDetection-Surge	1 (6)
S	Steady	4 (2)
S-S	Steady-Surge	4 (7)
S-BD	Steady-BetterDetection	1 (1)
S-BD-S	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge	3 (2)

District Level Projections – Daily with Surge

Best fitting projections by District

- Projections that best fit recent trends with Surge assumed for all districts
- Daily confirmed cases by Region (blue solid) with simulation at the region level (black dotted)
- Projection color consistent with other and abbreviated in title

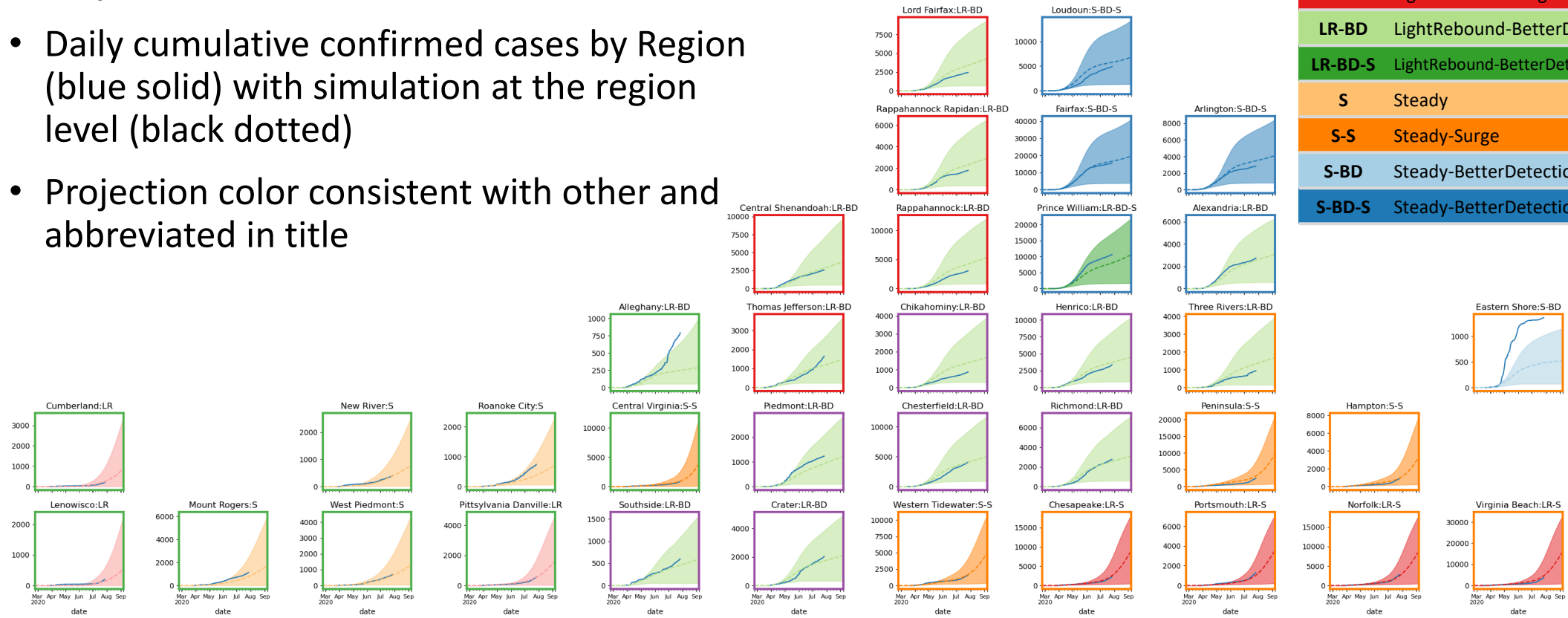


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S-BD-S	Steady-BetterDetection-Surge	3 (2)

District Level Projections - Cumulative

Best fitting projections by District

- Projections that best fit recent trends
- Daily cumulative confirmed cases by Region (blue solid) with simulation at the region level (black dotted)
- Projection color consistent with other and abbreviated in title

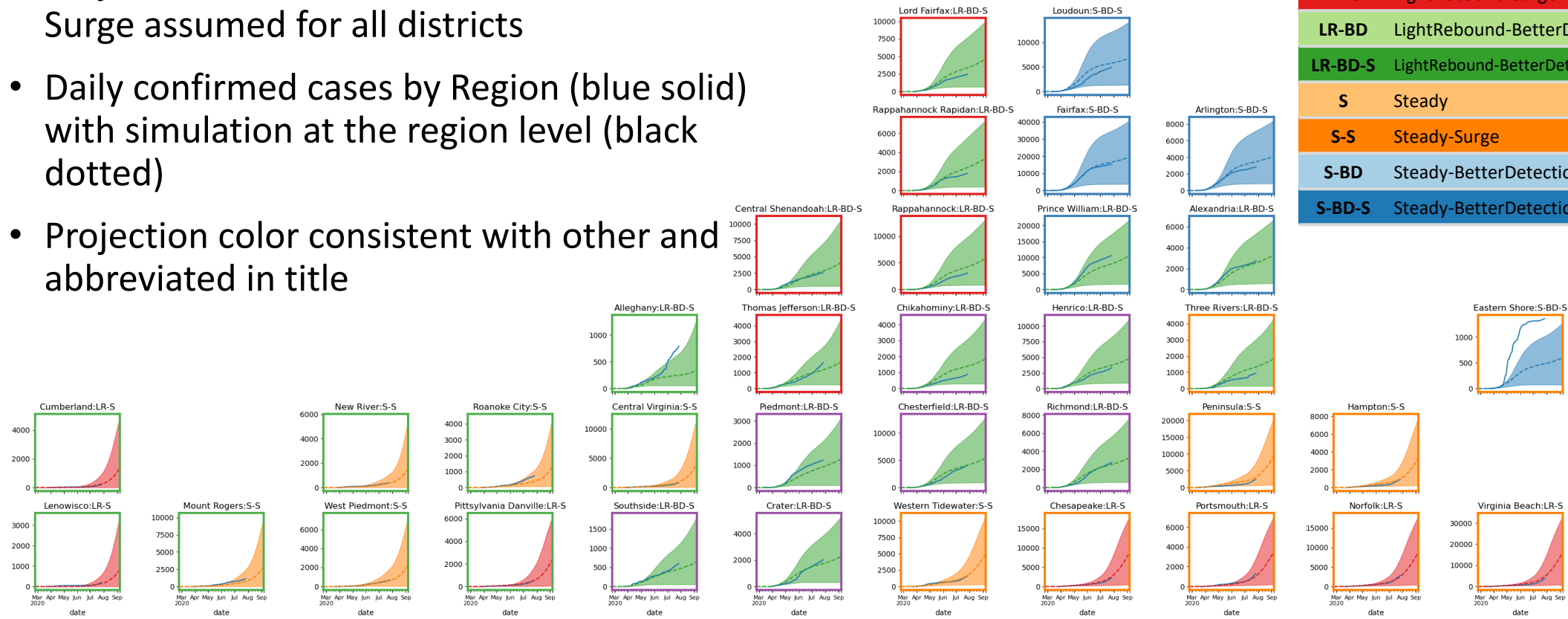


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District Level Projections – Cumulative with Surge

Best fitting projections by District

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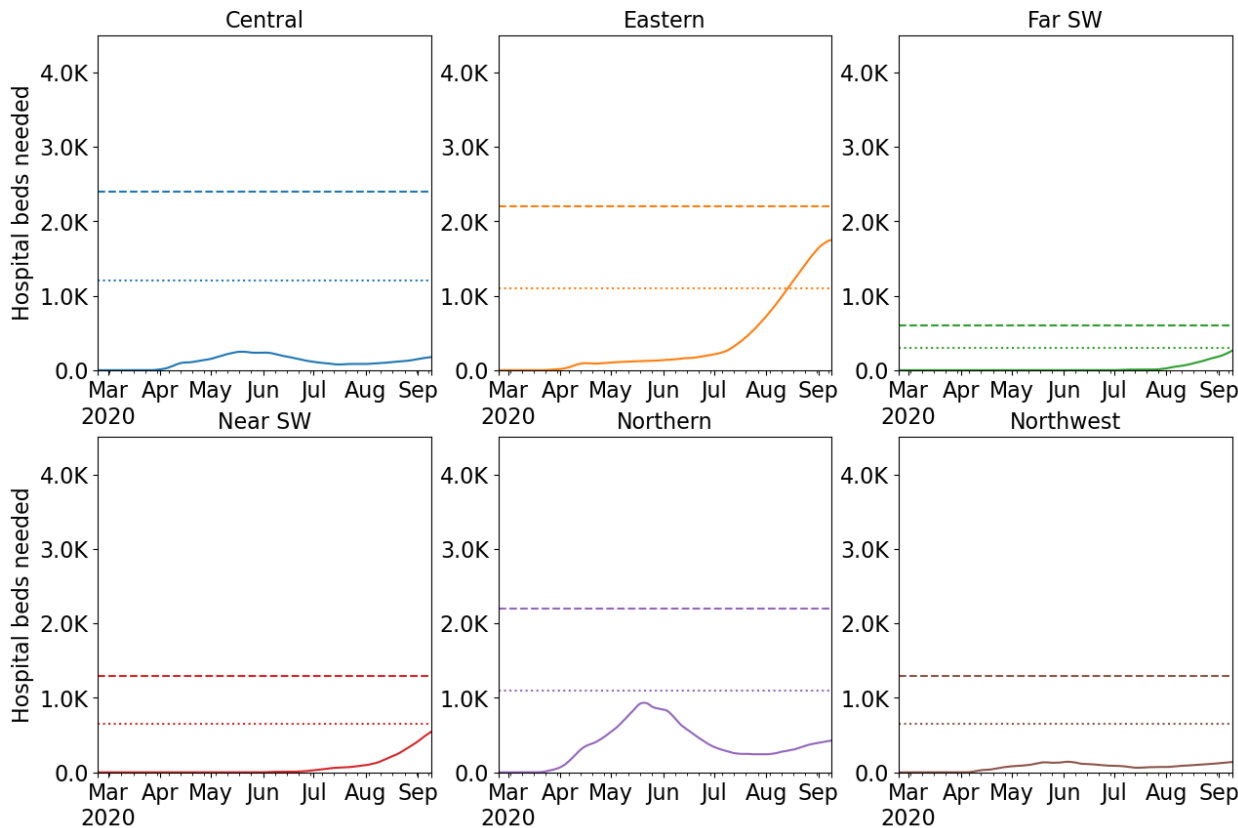


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Hospital Demand and Capacity by Region

Capacities by Region – BestFit-Surge

COVID-19 capacity ranges from 80% (dots) to 120% (dash) of total beds



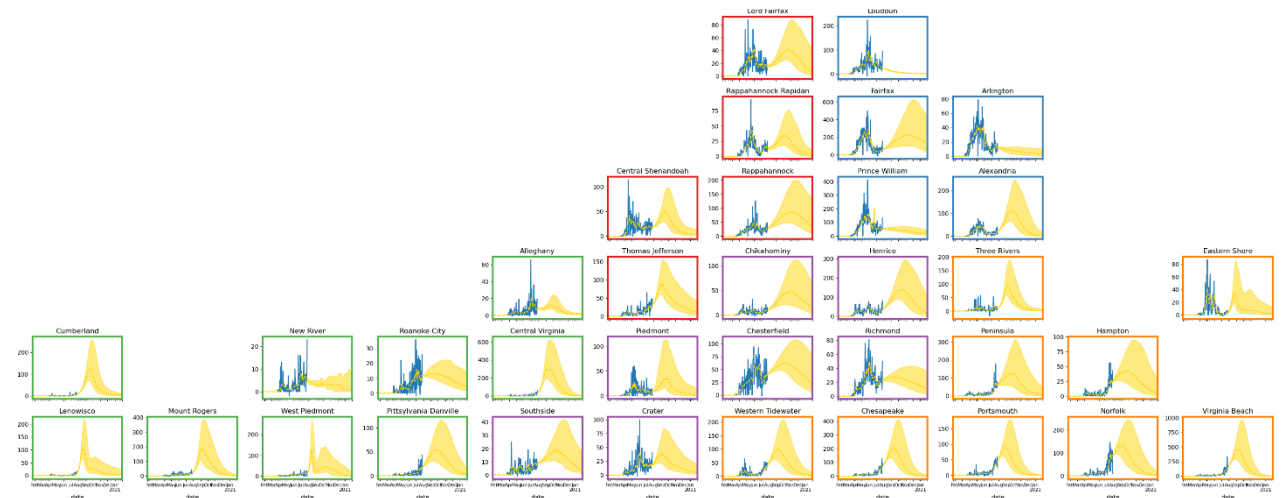
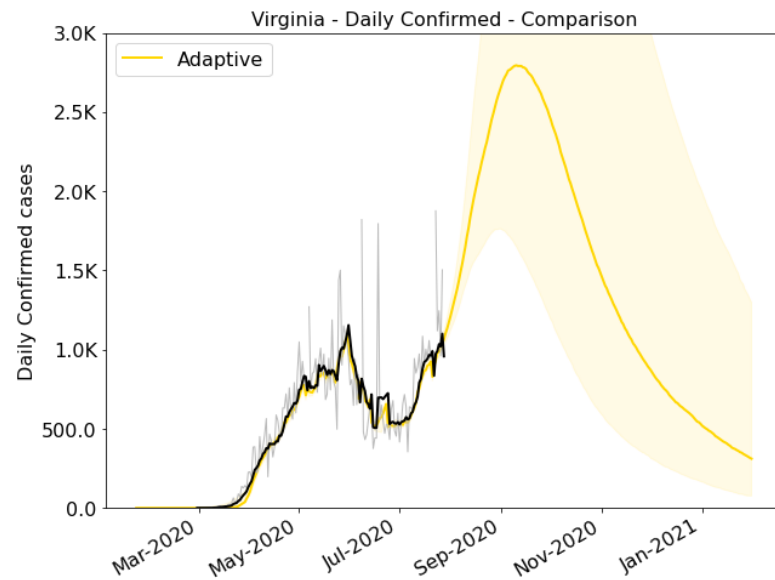
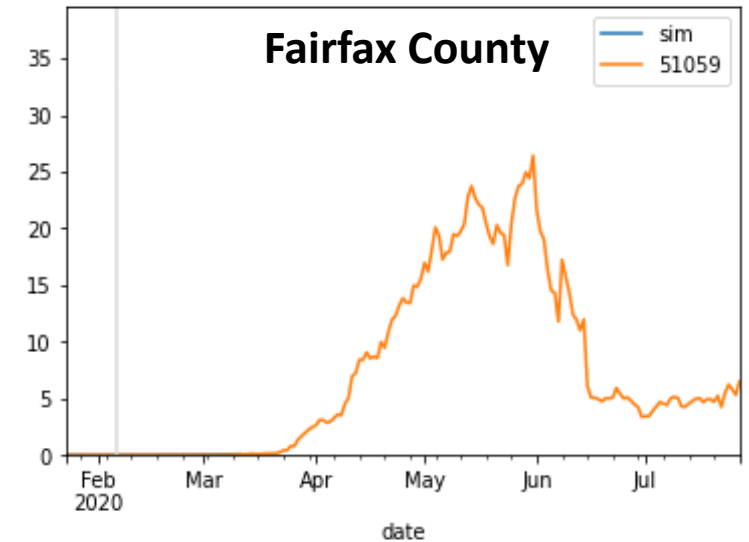
- Based on current best fits with potential surge
 - Eastern region exceeds 80% capacity in mid-August, current model keeping pace with observed increases in Eastern region
 - Multiple regions (Near SW, Far SW, Eastern and Northern) may near their capacity in September
 - Northern may begin to rise again at the end of July
- Activity in neighboring states and reopening of schools/universities may make this more likely

* Assumes average length of stay of 8 days

Preliminary Use of Adaptive Fitting for Calibration

Each county fit precisely, with recent trends used for future projection

- Rather than a few scenarios used to represent all courses, the daily transmission rate is fitted in a county-specific SEIR model
- Allows history to be precisely captured, but can still layer in future projection scenarios
- Uncertainty obtained by sweeping over impacts of testing rate and other disease parameters



Key Takeaways

Projecting future cases precisely is impossible and unnecessary.

Even without perfect projections, we can confidently draw conclusions:

- **Some VDH health districts continue to experience high activity, though growth rates have slowed in most; fewer districts show signs of surge compared to last week.**
- Given the experience of other states in the nation, it is crucial to maintain control.
- Recent model updates:
 - Identifying and adjusting timing of Surge integrated with scenario selection for "Best Fit" projection
 - New "Adaptive Fitting" approach has preliminary results
 - Added and updated analyses to act as early indicators of surge and look for indicators of control
- Similar signs of slowed growth evident across nation, though incidence levels remain high, some states still exhibiting rapid growth.
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models will be updated regularly.

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Questions?

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Supplemental Slides

Recent Parameter Validation

New York State [announced sero-prevalence survey results](#) on May 2nd

- 15,000 antibody tests conducted randomly through the state at grocery stores
- **Total Attack Rate:** 12.3%

Estimation of undetected infections

- Total infections in NY = 2.46M, total of 300K confirmed cases
- Confirmed case detection = 12% of infections (close to 15% used in model)

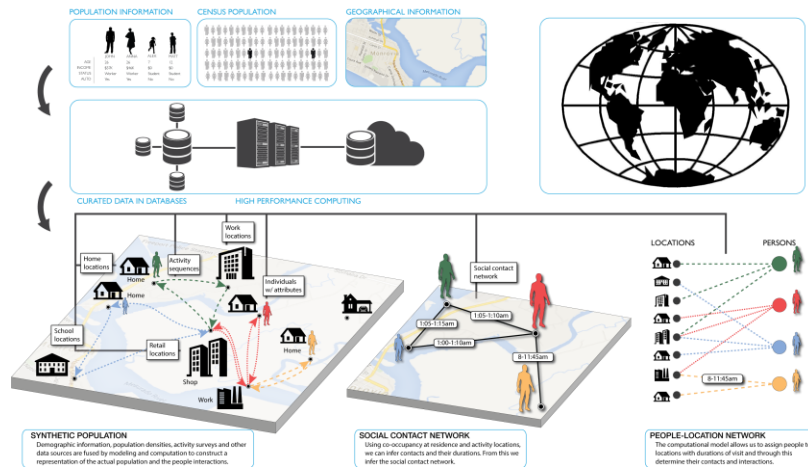
Estimation of hospitalizations from infections

- Total infections in NY = 2.46M, total of 66K hospitalizations
- Hospitalizations = 2.7% of infections (close to 2.25% used in model)

Agent-based Model (ABM)

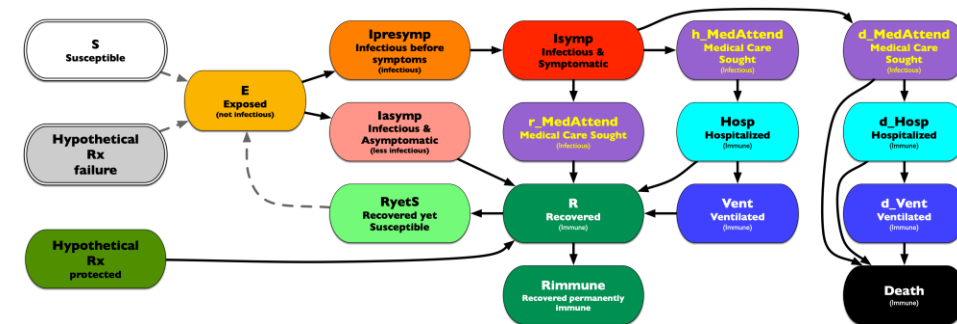
EpiHiper: Distributed network-based stochastic disease transmission simulations

- Assess the impact on transmission under different conditions
- Assess the impacts of contact tracing



Synthetic Population

- Census derived age and household structure
- Time-Use survey driven activities at appropriate locations



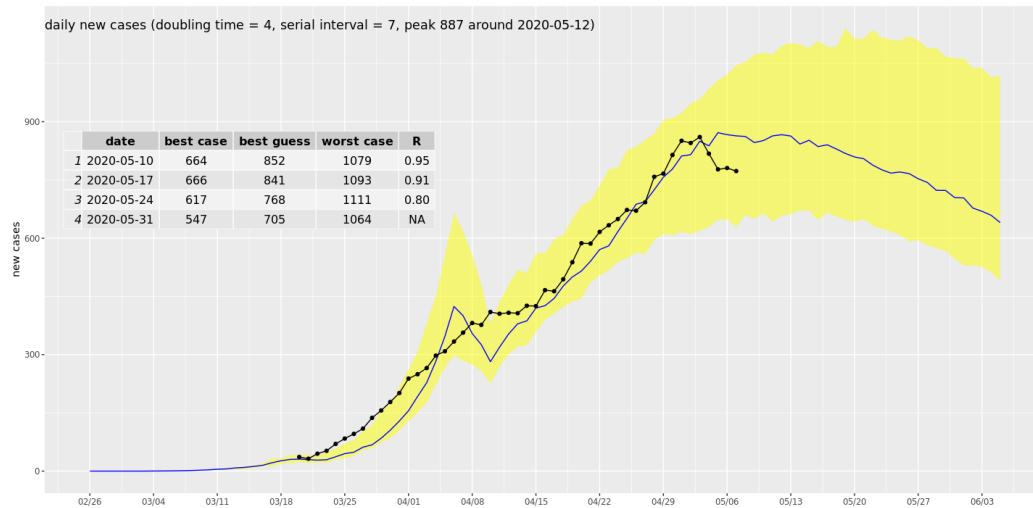
Detailed Disease Course of COVID-19

- Literature based probabilities of outcomes with appropriate delays
- Varying levels of infectiousness
- Hypothetical treatments for future developments

ABM Social Distancing Rebound Study Design

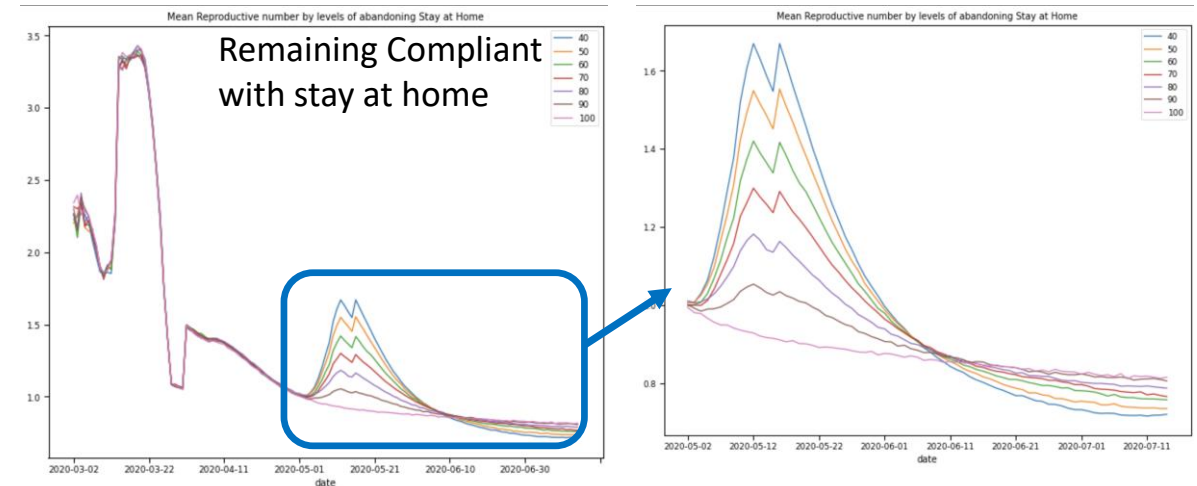
Study of "Stay Home" policy adherence

- Calibration to current state in epidemic
- Implement "release" of different proportions of people from "staying at home"



Calibration to Current State

- Adjust transmission and adherence to current policies to current observations
- For Virginia, with same seeding approach as PatchSim



Impacts on Reproductive number with release

- After release, spike in transmission driven by additional interactions at work, retail, and other
- At 25% release (70-80% remain compliant)
- Translates to 15% increase in transmission, which represents a $1/6^{\text{th}}$ return to pre-pandemic levels

Medical Resource Demand Dashboard

<https://nssac.bii.virginia.edu/covid-19/vmrddash/>

